



Weekly Report From Your Congresswoman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anna Eshoo", is centered on the page.

April 10, 2020

Dear friends,

As we remain in our homes, we're separated from each another, but we're joined together by an unswerving determination to do everything possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19. I'm deeply inspired by our health care workers, our first responders, and the thousands of acts of kindness across our communities and our country. America's heart is broken as we mourn the loss of fellow citizens, but we also see the heart of America through the goodness of so many.

My work continues from my kitchen table, phone in hand, staying close to you through our [Tele-Town Hall Meetings](#) in every community; assisting the thousands who need help navigating life as our economy cascades; and shaping legislation that will lift people up and meet the great needs of our time.

This is a holy season...Easter for Christians, Passover for the Jewish Community, and Ramadan for the Muslim Community. Our faith gives us hope, and hope is embedded in the American spirit.

Legislation Anna Introduced this Week

The Healthcare Broadband Expansion During COVID-19 Act

The current COVID-19 pandemic has put a strain on our health care system like we've never experienced before. In response to the outbreak, doctors around the country are turning to telemedicine as a safety precaution to contain the spread of coronavirus, yet healthcare providers pay \$40,000 or more per year for broadband connectivity. At a time when the budgets of hospitals, clinics, and other health care facilities are strained, Congress should do everything it can to provide assistance to these critical institutions.

This week I introduced the [Healthcare Broadband Expansion During COVID-19 Act](#), a bipartisan bill to provide \$2 billion to expand telehealth and high-quality internet connectivity at public and nonprofit healthcare facilities, including mobile clinics and temporary health facilities deployed to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. The bill ensures healthcare providers around the country can afford internet connectivity as they respond to the worst pandemic of our lifetimes.

Letters Anna Wrote this Week

Letter Calling on Congress to Forgive Student Loans of Health Care Workers

Doctors, nurses, and other health care workers are putting themselves in harm's way to care for patients suffering from COVID-19. These professionals show up to the front lines day after day to provide critical care to our nation's sickest patients at great personal risk. A highly meaningful way to pay the debt of gratitude of the American people is to shoulder their student loan debt. This week I wrote to the Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee urging the Committee to include a policy in the next COVID-19 aid package to forgive the outstanding student loans of health care workers.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, 73% of medical students in the class of 2019 graduated with a median education debt of \$200,000. Similarly, a survey conducted by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in 2016 found that the median student loan debt anticipated by graduate nursing students upon completion of their program was between \$40,000 and \$54,999.

To read a copy of my letter, click [HERE](#).

Letter Urging the SBA to Provide In-Language Recovery Services to Small Business Owners

Small businesses must have full and equal access to the programs that Congress has established to help them survive the COVID-19 pandemic. While the Small Business Administration (SBA) operates a Spanish-language website and offers interpreter services, the

agency does not provide similar services for other commonly-spoken non-English languages. With an estimated 26.5 million Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals living in the United States and 173,000 businesses conducting transactions in Asian languages, Congress authorized \$25 million funding for SBA to meet the needs of these business owners.

This week I urged the SBA to provide services and materials to small business owners in the ten most commonly spoken non-English languages, including Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese, and Korean., consistent with current law. The SBA must ensure business owners are not left behind because they lack access to in-language materials and services. Click [HERE](#) to read a copy of the letter.

Letter to the White House About Public Health Surveillance System

This week it was reported that Jared Kushner, Senior Advisor (and son-in-law) to President Trump, is assembling a group of technology firms and health care providers to establish a far-reaching public health surveillance system in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Such a system raises far-reaching questions and concerns about the privacy of the American people and the White House's denial of the existence of this effort, despite ample corroborating reporting, only compounds these questions and concerns.

Together with Senators Warner (D-VA) and Blumenthal (D-CT), I wrote to Mr. Kushner expressing serious concerns that these public health surveillance systems may serve as beachheads for far-reaching health data collection efforts that go beyond responding to the current crisis. Our letter called on Mr. Kushner to answer a series of questions about the scope of his project and what steps he is taking to ensure that the privacy of Americans is protected. To read a copy of our letter, click [HERE](#).

Thanking the California National Guard

The California National Guard has over 1,000 service members conducting humanitarian missions across the state, including supporting local food banks where they have packaged over 4.3 million meals. In our Congressional District, CalGuard is assisting Second Harvest of Silicon Valley at its Curtner and Cypress locations and the Santa Cruz County Food Bank. Bravo to these selfless souls for coming to the aid of communities across California.

Weekly Highlights



Webinar for Small Businesses and Non-Profits

On Thursday I hosted a webinar for small businesses and non-profits in our Congressional District to provide information about the resources available under the recently passed \$2 trillion aid bill. I was joined by Julie Clowes, Director of the Small Business Administration (SBA) for Northern California, to answer the many questions about how small businesses and non-profits can receive assistance from the SBA as they struggle in a cascading economy. My thanks to the over 1,000 small businesses and non-profits who participated. To listen to the event, click [HERE](#). For a copy of the SBA's presentation, click [HERE](#).

In the Words of My Constituents

Every week hundreds of my constituents call and write to me to express their concerns, share their passions, and ask questions regarding legislation and policies. Over 34,590 constituents have contacted me in 2020. I actually read every communication and every constituent receives a personal response to their specific questions and comments from me. This week, 3,187 constituents contacted my office about issues including:

- **270 constituents** opposed to the firing of Inspector General Atkinson
- **199 constituents** in support of vote-by-mail funding for the 2020 Election
- **130 constituents** opposed to bailouts of corporations without strict oversight

Anna's Recommended Reading and Watching

The Washington Post – “[Why the coronavirus models aren't totally accurate](#)”

Fareed Zakaria writes in this Op-Ed that in order for the U.S. to have a full understanding of the public health risks of the coronavirus, we must implement a system of mass testing as soon as possible. He notes that early projections about the death toll of the virus continue to be revised downward because our understanding of the virus and its human toll depend on robust and accurate data.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

I highly recommend the simple but powerful way to organize a neighborhood to look out for each other.

Here's a link for Palo Alto Residents:

https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/services/public_safety/get_involved/default.asp

Also:

www.mpcready.org

www.getreadyatherton.org

www.repact.org

Stay healthy

Stay strong

Stay home!

Sincerely,



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



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